

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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/082 W

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R 101432Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8521
USICA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USINT HAVANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PINS, ET, AG
SUBJ: PRO-ALGERIAN "AFRIQUE-ASIE" WARNS ETHIOPIA ON ERITREA

USICA FOR PGM/RC, PGM/P, VOA, NEA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN LEAD EDITORIAL APPEARING IN MAY 2-14
ISSUE OF PARIS-PUBLISHED, PRO-ALGERIAN BIMONTHLY "AFRIQUE-ASIE"
AND ENTITLED "ERITREA: NO TO WAR OF RECONQUEST* SIMON MALLEY,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PUBLICATION, WARNS ETHIOPIA ON ERITREA IN FOL-
LOWING TERMS.

2. "WE SIMPLY SAY NO TO WAR OF COLONIAL RECONQUEST OF MARTYR
PEOPLE OF ERITREA. NO TO MILITARY SOLUTION THAT MENGISTU HAILE
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MARIAM REGIME SEEMS TO WANT TO UNDERTAKE..."

3. "FIDEL CASTRO AFFIRMED TO ME PERSONALLY LAST YEAR IN HAVANA
THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ETHIOPIAN LEADERS TO ADOPT
MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE IN ERITREAN AFFAIR ONCE OGADEN AFFAIR HAD
BEEN SETTLED. AT NO TIME DID NUMEROUS CUBAN OFFICIALS WHOM I MET
EVOKE POSSIBILITY OF ANY CUBAN PARTICIPATION WHATEVER IN ERITREAN

WAR. NO ONE CAN FORGET THAT MOST IMPORTANT CADRES OF ERITREAN RESISTANCE WERE TRAINED IN CUBA AND ALSO IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS, SOUTH YEMEN, SYRIA, IRAQ, AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES..."

4. "OUR RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO DEFEND -- OR MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO DEFEND -- MILITARY RECONQUEST OF ERITREA IS SIMPLE. OF COURSE, IT IS NOT 'MILITARILY' EXCLUDED THAT ETHIOPIAN TROOPS ... COULD INFLICT HEAVY LOSSES ON ERITREAN GUERRILLAS. WITHOUT DOUBT, THEY COULD REOCCUPY GOOD PART OF COUNTRY. BUT WOULD THIS BE VIABLE AND LASTING SOLUTION? DOES ADDIS ABABA SERIOUSLY THINK ITS ARMY COULD ELIMINATE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT HAS LASTED SEVENTEEN YEARS...? AND THEN, WHAT WOULD BE NATURE OF THIS 'SOCIALIST REVOLUTION' THAT DERG WANTS TO ENJOY IF, TO LIBERATE ITSELF FROM SEVERAL CENTURIES OF FEUDAL AND OLIGARCHIC OPPRESSION, OF FOREIGN DOMINATION, IT CONTINUED TO DEPRIVE ERITREAN PEOPLE OF ITS NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS? HOW CAN ERITREA BE CONSIDERED A NATIONAL 'MINORITY' OR ETHIOPIA?"

5. " COULD NOT PROLONGATION OF CONFLICT, AS WELL AS BITTERNESS AND DISILLUSIONMENT THAT WILL END UP DEVELOPING AMONG ERITREAN FIGHTERS, BE EXPLOITED BY VERY SAME IMPERIALIST AND FEUDAL FORCES THAT ETHIOPIAN REGIME SAYS IT WANTS TO FOIL AND CRUSH? DOESN'T ETHIOPIA'S VITAL INTEREST DICTATE TO ITS LEADERS THE NEED TO PREVENT TRANSFORMATION OF ERITREAN AND SOMALI FRONTIERS INTO AREAS OF TENSION AND OF PERMANENT INSECURITY AND AGITATION? IF DERG WANTS ITS REVOLUTION TO RECEIVE RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND PROGRESSIVE OPINION, DOESN'T THIS 'STEP FORWARD' IMPOSE IT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELF IMMEDIATELY?" END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT "AFRIQUE-ASIE", WHICH IS REPUTED TO RECEIVE ALGERIAN SUPPORT, WOULD FAIL TO REFLECT ALGERIAN THINKING ON SUBJECT OF THIS SENSITIVITY. THIS AND OTHER SMALL SIGNS LEAD US TO BELIEVE ALGERIA HAS JOINED CUBA IN ITS CONCERN OVER ETHIOPIAN INTENTIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

HAYNES

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